ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A cell processing apparatus which executes processing for switching a short-packet in AAL Type 2 cell format has a separation processing unit and a restoration processing unit. The separation processing unit splits a short packet, which has a length greater than a length L (= 48) bytes capable of being accommodated in one ATM cell, into two portions, accommodates significant data containing (1) one of the short-packet portions and (2) short-packet length information, in a payload area of the first ATM cell, accommodates remaining significant data including another short-packet portion, which could not be accommodated in the first ATM cell, in a payload area of the second ATM cell, and inputs the first and second ATM cells to an ATM switch. The restoration processing unit refers to the short-packet length information that has been accommodated in the first ATM cell output from the ATM switch, restores the original short packet, the length of which exceeds L bytes, using the short packet portions that have been accommodated in respective ones of the first and second ATM cells, and sends the restored short packet to a line in the AAL Type 2 cell format.